

Senate File 151 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 151

BY ZAUN

A BILL FOR

1 An Act requesting the establishment of an interim study
2 committee by the legislative council regarding prescription
3 pain medication.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. EVALUATION OF PRESCRIPTION PAIN MEDICATION
2 CRISIS — INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE.

3 1. The legislative council is requested to establish an
4 interim study committee to comprehensively evaluate the state's
5 response to the national prescription pain medication crisis
6 from both the public health and law enforcement perspectives.

7 2. The committee may receive input from agencies and
8 entities including but not limited to the department of public
9 health, the department of public safety, the board of pharmacy,
10 the department of corrections, the state medical examiner,
11 and representatives of the medical community, community-based
12 corrections, law enforcement agencies, and employers.

13 3. In conducting the evaluation, the committee shall review
14 information including but not limited to all of the following:

15 a. The number of prescriptions for pain medications issued
16 in Iowa and upward and downward trends over a specified period.

17 b. The number of deaths annually attributable to
18 prescription pain medication overdoses and illegal drugs, the
19 accuracy of the underlying reporting system for such deaths,
20 the potential for underreporting of such deaths especially for
21 older individuals for whom a death might be reported as due to
22 natural causes based on the age of the individual, and the need
23 to develop a framework for reporting and disseminating more
24 accurate data.

25 c. The protocols being followed by the medical community to
26 assist those persons addicted to prescription pain medications
27 to reduce reliance on the medications and slowly withdraw, and
28 the roles of pharmacists, prescribers, and others in averting
29 and reporting possible addiction.

30 d. Whether the current scheduling practices for
31 prescription pain medications are helpful or harmful in
32 preventing addiction and criminal activity and whether the
33 state should continue to strictly follow the scheduling
34 practices of the federal government or explore another
35 approach.

1 e. The specific treatment models available for those
2 persons addicted to prescription pain medications, including
3 those available in correctional settings and those utilized for
4 individuals with a medical condition for which a symptom is
5 chronic pain.

6 f. Alternative pain management approaches and the
7 availability, affordability, and effectiveness of such
8 approaches.

9 g. The potential budgetary impact on the correctional
10 system if the misuse of prescription pain medications results
11 in criminal activity.

12 h. The limitations on employment opportunities for and
13 increased health insurance costs to employers due to Iowans
14 with chronic pain issues.

15 i. The capacity of the state to meet the needs of older
16 individuals who have become reliant on pain medications to
17 enhance quality of life.

18 4. The committee shall submit recommendations to the
19 governor and the general assembly by January 1, 2018.

20 EXPLANATION

21 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
22 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

23 This bill requests that the legislative council establish an
24 interim study committee to comprehensively evaluate the state's
25 response to the national prescription pain medication crisis
26 from both the public health and law enforcement perspectives.
27 The bill provides that the committee may receive input
28 from agencies and entities including but not limited to the
29 department of public health, the department of public safety,
30 the board of pharmacy, the department of corrections, the state
31 medical examiner, and representatives of the medical community,
32 community-based corrections, law enforcement agencies, and
33 employers. The bill specifies the types of information the
34 committee is to review in conducting its evaluation and directs
35 the committee to submit recommendations to the governor and the

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1 general assembly by January 1, 2018.